THE DESCENDANT OF JOHN SAMPLES

Tracing the family histories of the Samples families of Clay County, West Virginia is very difficult, as two and perhaps three different lines have been discovered during research. One Samples line can be traced to Ireland through two brothers who were British soldiers captured at Yorktown, VA during the American Revolutionary War, and the other can be traced to Ohio near the present site of Pomeroy. The eldest member of the Samples family living in the Pomeroy area was named Robert and he is not to be confused with a younger Robert Samples, brother of Samuel Alexander Samples II.

1.JOHN SAMPLES I

John Samples I was born about 1755, probably in Ireland. He and his brother Samuel Alexander Samples were soldiers in the British Army and were captured when Lord Cornwallis' army surrendered to General George Washington at Yorktown Virginia October 19, 1781. The British soldiers captured after this battle were marched to a prison camp at Charles Town, Virginia. They were not closely guarded and were encouraged to escape, because the new Nation did not need any more people to feed. Samuel and John escaped, but became separated and never saw each other again.

John Samples married Agnes Hamilton in Virginia. John and Agnes and Agnes' family joined a band of migrants bound for Kentucky in search of new land. On their way across the mountains, they were attacked by Indians and the elder John Samples was killed. Agnes married a man named Phillips.

Children of John I and Agnes (Hamilton) Samples.

2. (1) John II b.c. 1790.
m.Nancy Turnbull

2.JOHN SAMPLES II 1.JOHN SAMPLES I

John Samples II was born in Virginia about 1790, son of John I and Agnes (Hamilton) Samples. His father was killed by Indians when he was quite young and tradition says that his step father, a man named Phillips, was cruel to him and that his mother bound him out (apprenticed him) to a maker of hats. This "binding out" was a custom of the times and the person that was "bound out" was a virtual slave for a period of years, usually seven.

Apprenticeships were regulated by law, with most of the statutes covering the master's rights rather than the servant's. The master had the right to regulate the servant's entire life, although some laws did limit the size of stick the master might use to beat the apprentice.

John Samples II married Nancy Turnbull, daughter of James Turnbull.

Children of John II and Nancy (Turnbull) Samples

3. (1) John Henry
m.Eliza Kincaid.

4. (2) James
m.in Illinois.

5. (3) Isaac
m.never married.

6. (4) William Moffett
m.Drusilla B. Wade.

7. (5) Amos
m.Nona Snyder.

8. (6) Susannah
m.Samuel Ruchman.

9. (7) Agnes, died at age nine months.

10. (8) Elizabeth
m.William C. Trimble.

11. (9) Harriet
m.James Sullenberger.

12. (10) Eliza
m.Harry Pullen.

6.WILLIAM MOFFETT SAMPLES 2.JOHN SAMPLES II 1.JOHN SAMPLES I

William Moffett Samples was born about 1820, son of John II and Nancy (Turnbull) Samples. He married Drusilla B. Wade in 1842.

Children of William Moffett and Drusilla B. (Wade) Samples.

13.	(1)	James William	b.	1844.
14.	(2)	Virginia F.	b.	1849.
15.	(3)	Carnellia Sonia	b.	1849.
16.	(4)	Alex Wellington	b.	1852.
17.	(5)	Philander Augustus	b.	1854.
18.	(6)	Elizabeth	b.	1857.
19.	(7)	Henry F.	b.	1860.
20.	(8)	John Wade	b.	1863.
21.	(9)	Samuel Beard	b.	1868.

22. (10) Mary F.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:
Dawson, Hubert E., "Twistabout and Thereabout"
"Hickory and Ladyslippers", Vol.1
"Hickory and Ladyslippers", Vol.3. Book 6
1850, 1860, 1870 Braxton County VA (WV) census
1860, 1870, 1880 Clay County WV census
Moore, Moore and Ball, "Clay County Cemeteries"